

3274

August 6, 1971

Note to Files

POSSIBLE UNAUTHORIZED IRRADIATION OF FOOD

On August 6, 1971, Jack Cusack of the Brookhaven National Laboratory called to ask my advice concerning information that had come to his attention relating to the above subject. The substance of Cusack's remarks to me are:

Universal Seafood, Inc., 735 Caven Circle, St. Laurent 378, Canada, imports 4,000 pounds per week of frozen frogs legs. These arrive at J. F. Kennedy Airport in packages which indicate they originate from Lahore, Pakistan. The material is loaded into a rented Hertz refrigerated truck driven by a Mr. Peter Silver who is an employee of Universal Seafood. The shipment is driven to Radiation Technology, Inc., Rockaway, New Jersey, of which Mr. Martin Welt is President. At this facility, the frogs legs are given a radiation dose of 150,000 rad. Subsequently, they are examined for salmonella contamination by Gibraltar Biological Laboratories, Inc., 25 Just Road, Fairfield, New Jersey. The frogs legs are packaged in 5 to 10 pound boxes with the product in plastic bags, two legs to a bag. These boxes are then trucked to a destination which is not known but is thought to be Canada. This operation began in mid-May 1971.

Cusack said he could not vouch for the authenticity of the foregoing but that the information was provided to him by a [redacted] with whom Mr. Cusack has been personally acquainted for sometime. [redacted] is a former employee of Radiation Technology, Inc. which, Cusack agreed, raised a question of possible bias. On the basis of his personal acquaintance with [redacted] however, Cusack was inclined to believe there was possibly some substance to his allegations. [redacted] expressed to Cusack a desire not to become personally involved in any investigation that might be made of this matter.

Immediately upon receipt of the above information, I discussed the situation with Fowler and, with his concurrence, shortly thereafter brought it to the attention of OGC, specifically Catalan and Minsch. The latter advised he would consult with the appropriate concerned groups within AEC and that I should take no additional action pending further advice from him.

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